



**For Immediate Release  
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## **STATEWIDE ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today honored seven student winners in the annual Massachusetts Arbor Day Poster Contest. The ceremony was held at A.F. Maloney School in Blackstone, where First Place winner Derek Frasca is a student. The theme, “Trees are Terrific – and Energy Wise,” drew entries from more than 1,500 fifth-graders in public and private schools across the Commonwealth.

James DiMaio, Chief of DCR’s Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry, congratulated the winners stating, “These posters beautifully depict the way in which trees make our cities and towns greener, more pleasant places to live.”

Winners received forestry related educational gifts and art supplies and DCR professionally mounted their posters for display. DCR also planted a tree in honor of Derek Frasca’s winning poster on the school grounds. Brigham’s Ice Cream Company graciously donated complimentary ice cream sandwiches for all fifth graders at A.F. Maloney School, as well as all of the winners from other schools.

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*Acting Commissioner*



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In addition to first place winner, DCR recognized the second and third place winners and five honorable mentions. *Second Place* went to Sara Judge of the Sunderland Elementary School in Sunderland, *Third Place* was awarded to Sophia Despotopulos of the Thorndyke Road School in Worcester and *Honorable Mention* Winners were Victoria Ware of the Becket Washington School in Becket, Maddie Perkins of the Rupert A. Nock Middle School in Newburyport, Alesan Kravchenko of the Barry School in Chicopee, and Terel Lopes Rodrigues of the Abraham Lincoln School in New Bedford.

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